Tax on advertisement space

*184. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have issued a clarification, bringing into the tax net, the advertisement space sold to advertisers;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the publishers have to pay 10.2 per cent tax to Government due to this move; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons for taking this step which affects the readers?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Service tax is not leviable on advertising space in print media. Government has not issued any clarification regarding imposition of service tax on advertising space in print media. A drafts circular was placed on the Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC) website seeking comments and suggestions on the issue of value of taxable services provided by an advertsing agency to a client in relation to advertisement. Concerns raised by the print media on the said draft circular have been noted.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Bio-diesel policy

†*186. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that bio-diesel can be prepared from Ratan Jot;

(b) if so, whether it has been confirmed officially;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government have not been able to decide any policy regarding bio-diesel so far; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard and by when, the policy is likely to be decided?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.